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S/1998/1
2 January 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Government of Eritrea on the reconciliation efforts in Somalia, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Eritrea on 30 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tesfa Alem SEYOUM
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-00104 (E) 020198

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Annex

Statement of the Government of Eritrea on the reconciliation efforts in Somalia, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on 30 December 1997

The painful turmoil that has enveloped Somalia for the past seven years has remained a cause of extreme preoccupation to the friends and well-wishers of the Somali people. For the Government and people of Eritrea, the historical ties of solidarity and mutual respect with their Somali brothers that were cultivated during the armed struggle for liberation were additional reasons for propelling them to play an active role in the subregional efforts to facilitate the timely resolution of the tragic conflict from the early days of its eruption.

The Government of Eritrea was, as a matter of fact, consistently critical of the United States-led international intervention in December 1992 for its obvious inadequacies, and particularly for its short-termism and undue military focus. In the course of the subsequent months, the endeavour was derailed from its original objectives and purposes owing to complications arising from the misguided approach by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Government of Eritrea then strongly opposed and vehemently protested against the disorientation of the original initiative, which was now overshadowed by the singular punitive objective against General Aideed, rightly arguing that the elusive manhunt would entail unnecessary civilian casualties, alienate an entire clan and erode international support for the intervention.

Against the backdrop of these negative experiences and after some time had elapsed without any visible progress on the Somali ground, the Federal Republic of Ethiopia took the initiative of bringing together several Somali political groups in Sodere in November 1996. This was in accordance with the mandate given to it by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) as well as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and represented, in this respect, a collective subregional endeavour. The Government of Eritrea naturally welcomed the new reconciliation effort. However, it expressed its reservations through the appropriate channels, including at the IGAD summits, underlining the imperative of ensuring the full participation of the movements led by Hussein Aideed and others in the Sodere peace process.

An endeavour has been undertaken in the past month by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to promote reconciliation among the Somali factions. Unfortunately, this latest round of negotiations has not brought about the desired consolidation of the process of building consensus and reconciliation among the key Somali protagonists.

In the circumstances, the Government of Eritrea wishes to reiterate its long-held views regarding efforts aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation in Somalia:

(a) Any endeavour must take into account the complexity and sensitivity of the Somali crisis;

(b) The endeavours that result inadvertently or wilfully in the exclusion of one party or another, or that appear to tip the delicate balance in favour of one faction at the perceived expense of the other, will not succeed in bringing about the desired peace and reconciliation. These well-intentioned efforts may in fact induce more internecine hostility and conflict;

(c) It must be realized that the problem in Somalia can only be resolved by the Somali people themselves. In this respect, no international or subregional initiative can serve as a substitute for this fundamental requirement. The immediate neighbours of the Somalis in the subregion as well as its friends elsewhere can evidently facilitate the difficult and protracted process of reconciliation and confidence-building when expressly asked to do so by the main protagonists. Maximum care must however be taken to ensure that this catalytic role does not exceed its bounds.

Finally, in urging our Somali brothers to exhibit the necessary courage and wisdom to bring this harrowing tragedy to an end, the Government of Eritrea expresses its readiness, as ever, to contribute to the reconciliation process together with its partners in the region.

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Security Council

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S/1998/2
5 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of paragraph (a) of the section entitled "Occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and relations with Iran" of the final communiqué issued at the conclusion of the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Kuwait from 20 to 22 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yacub Yousif AL-HOSANI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-00190 (E) 050198 050198

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Annex

Excerpt from the final communiqué issued at the conclusion of the eighteenth session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Kuwait from 20 to 22 December 1997

Occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates and relations with Iran

(a) Occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Supreme Council has considered the developments in the situation with regard to the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Mussa islands, which belong to the United Arab Emirates but are occupied by Iran. It once again deplores the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not responded to any of the serious and sincere appeals made to that country by the United Arab Emirates and regional and international organizations and agencies with a view to finding a peaceful settlement to the dispute.

The Council has reviewed the statements by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Mr. Mohamad Khatemi, in which he expressed his desire to meet with the President of the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, who has welcomed this and declared himself amenable to any meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

Reaffirming the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Mussa islands and reaffirming its full support for all the peaceful measures taken by the United Arab Emirates to re-establish its sovereignty over them, the Council again invites the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the islands, renounce its policy of fait accompli, refrain from building any further installations with a view to changing the demographic composition of the islands and destroy those it has built, rescind all unilateral measures taken to date and settle the dispute by peaceful means, in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, in particular by agreeing to bring the matter before the International Court of Justice.

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S/1998/3
5 January 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 2 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter dated 2 January 1998 which I received from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee established pursuant to the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB).

By means of this letter, the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee has transmitted to me the second periodic report of the Member States participating in MISAB, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 1136 (1997) of 6 November 1997. I should be grateful if you would bring the letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

98-00098 (E) 050198 050198

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Annex

Letter dated 2 January 1998 from the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the second report, covering the period from 5 December 1997 to 4 January 1998, requested by the Security Council in paragraph 7 of its resolution 1136 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic.

(Signed) Gen. Amadou Toumani TOURÉ
Chairman of the International
Monitoring Committee

Enclosure

Second report to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1136 (1997) concerning the situation in the Central African Republic

(2 January 1998)

INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3829th meeting, the Security Council unanimously adopted its resolution 1136 (1997), which was essentially a continuation of its earlier resolution 1125 (1997). The Council requested the Member States participating in MISAB, namely, the International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, which represents them, to provide periodic reports to the Council at least every month through the Secretary-General.

2. This second report describes developments in the situation in the Central African Republic from 5 December 1997 to 4 January 1998.

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

3. The International Monitoring Committee to supervise the implementation of the Bangui Agreements, chaired by General Amadou Toumani Touré, is the body that directs the actions of MISAB, since it receives the necessary political guidance directly from the heads of State concerned, and especially from the President of the Gabonese Republic, who is Chairman of the International Mediation Committee.

4. The International Monitoring Committee has adopted a plan of action that reflects the gist of the main provisions of the Agreements of 25 January 1997 in the form of a timetable, a significant part of which has already been implemented or is currently being implemented.

5. MISAB is under the patronage of President El Hadj Omar Bongo of Gabon, senior head of State of the International Mediation Committee. It is under the political authority of General Amadou Toumani Touré, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee.

LOGISTICAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

6. It should be noted that since its establishment by the heads of the States members of the International Mediation Committee, the International Monitoring Committee has received logistical and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The continuation of such support will make it possible to carry out, inter alia, diverse operations, namely:

Political monitoring of the pursuit of disarmament operations in Bangui and later in other parts of the country;

Pursuit of the implementation of the provisions of the Bangui Agreements that have not yet been implemented;

Coordination of activities relating to the organization and conduct of various seminars and conferences provided for in the context of national reconciliation.

7. The International Monitoring Committee is relying on the continued support of UNDP to enable it to carry out its tasks.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT TO THE MISSION

8. As indicated in the previous reports, MISAB receives logistical support from the participating States, France and the Government of the Central African Republic. It also received support previously from the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

9. While recognizing the generous efforts that the States participating in MISAB, France and the Government of the Central African Republic continue to make to assist the African contingents based in Bangui, it must be acknowledged that the material conditions of the troops stand in need of improvement, as they are far inferior to those enjoyed by other similar forces operating in other conflict areas. An appropriate solution to this state of affairs should be urgently found in order to avoid demoralization among the troops, which up until now have been carrying out their work with selfless dedication.

10. The International Monitoring Committee welcomes the establishment of a trust fund for the Central African Republic and the appeal by the Security Council to Member States concerning contributions to this Fund. It is important to emphasize that the ability to maintain security in the Central African Republic in a particularly sensitive subregional context will depend on the dispatch with which States Members of the United Nations contribute to the Fund.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BANGUI AGREEMENTS

Provisions already implemented

11. The provisions of the Agreements of 25 January 1997 on the formation of a Government of national union, the adoption of an amnesty law covering offences in the context of the third rebellion and the situation of former heads of State have already been implemented, which is to be commended.

Suspension of the parliamentary audit

12. The bill on the abandonment of the judicial enforcement of the parliamentary audit has not yet been able to be adopted following the intense debate on the subject that took place in November. This first bill was rejected

by a majority of deputies. Currently, the Presidency of the Republic and the Government are redrafting the bill for submission to the National Assembly for a second reading. An awareness campaign concerning this resubmission is currently being conducted among members of Parliament. It should be noted that the adoption of the bill is an important point of the Bangui Agreements. It is generally agreed that a second reading would be needed in order for an appropriate solution to be found. As an interim measure, President Patasse reaffirmed for the International Monitoring Committee his decision of 31 December 1996 to suspend the judicial enforcement of the findings of the report on the parliamentary audit. In other words, no judicial proceedings will be initiated until a definitive solution in keeping with the spirit of the Bangui Agreements has been found.

Disarmament

13. A coordination and security meeting took place on 8 December under the chairmanship of President Amadou Toumani Touré with the participation of the Minister of State for Territorial Administration, responsible for Public Safety and Disarmament, members of the International Monitoring Committee, the Command of MISAB and the principal officials responsible for various national defence and security services. The meeting made it possible to recognize that the strategy defined on 10 November has fallen far short of achieving the hoped-for results, which has given rise to suspicion and frustration among certain opposition political parties.

14. While some hope remains, certain indications lead us to believe that the recovery of light arms will not be as extensive as that of heavy weapons. Consequently, it was decided to return discreetly to the methods adopted during the first phase, which made it possible to achieve the results that have been noted.

15. The results obtained are described below. Some success has been noted since the decision of 8 December, particularly in the area of heavy weapons: all 120 mm and 81 mm mortars and all 14.5 mm machine-guns and 75 mm recoilless guns are now in the hands of MISAB.

16. Since the signing of the truce agreement of 28 June 1997 and the ceasefire agreement of 2 July 1997, the following weapons have been turned over to MISAB:

Heavy weapons

Designation	Quantity	Increase (4 December-31 December 1997)
120 mm mortars	surrendered: 4 out of a total of 4	2
81 mm mortars	surrendered: 15 out of a total of 15	2
60 mm mortars	surrendered: 14 out of a total of 19	1
14.5 mm machine-guns	surrendered: 6 out of a total of 6	
12.7 mm machine-guns	surrendered: 2 out of a total of 3	
75 mm recoilless guns	surrendered: 2 out of a total of 2	
73 mm anti-tank rocket launchers	surrendered: 66 out of a total of 67	
Rocket-propelled grenades	surrendered: 7 out of a total of 11	
Total	surrendered: 116 out of a total of 127	5
	(weapons recovered: 91.33 per cent)	3.93 per cent

Light weapons

Designation	Quantity	Increase (4 December-31 December 1997)
Hand-guns (misc.)	surrendered: 16 out of a total of 111	
Submachine-guns	surrendered: 304 out of a total of 459	2
Assault rifles	surrendered: 265 out of a total of 541	4
MAS 36-49/56-M14 rifles + muskets	surrendered: 662 out of a total of 1,181	10
Light machine-guns	surrendered: 52 out of a total of 80	
.30-calibre machine-guns	surrendered: 15 out of a total of 17	
Total	surrendered: 1,315 out of a total of 2,389	17
	(weapons recovered: 55.04 per cent)	0.71 per cent

17. In the light of the various factors listed in the previous reports, it is easy to understand why the recovery of all light arms remains uncertain in spite of all the resources brought to bear and the strategies employed.

Status of munitions and explosives recovered and packaged from 4 to 31 December 1997

Designation	Quantity	Remarks
5.56 mm rounds	69 092	+7
7.5 mm SLC rounds	14 000	
7.5 mm S/B rounds	123 954	
7.5 mm X rounds	34 719	+624
7.5 mm X S/B rounds	135	
7.62 mm rounds, NATO	15 962	
7.62 mm Kalashnikov rounds	42 060	+640
7.62 mm long rounds	121 261	
7.62 mm Tokarev rounds	2 811	+1
9 mm Para rounds	5 546	+23
.12-calibre riot control rounds	731	
12.7 mm rounds	3 191	+991
14.5 mm rounds	15 855	+421
37 fragmentation hand grenades	1 858	+1
Fragmentation hand grenades, China	3 174	+9
GR FLG AP34	16	
RPG 7 rockets	1 172	+21
73 anti-tank rocket launchers	9	+3
.37 stun hand grenades	1 047	+1
FL LAC F4 hand grenades	1 305	+1
F4 hand grenades	316	
Russian grenades	3	+2
60 mm mortars	1 821	
81 mm mortars	852	
120 mm mortars	211	+98
75 mm recoilless rifle rounds, US	168	
75 mm recoilless rifle rounds, China	223	No weapons in inventory
M79 40 mm rounds, US	6 060	No weapons in inventory
Time fuses (inactive)	2 325	
7.5 mm grenade cartridges	755	
Pyro detonator	6 100	

Total:

Various rounds	449 317
Explosives and detonators	26 659

Recommendations from the General Meeting on National Defence

18. This provision of the Bangui Agreements remains a bone of contention between those in power and the opposition. Indeed, although everyone is in agreement in recognizing that the rational and consistent implementation of the 282 recommendations from the General Meeting on National Defence can and should form the basis for the solution of many problems facing the Central African Armed Forces, it has proved difficult to find common ground for their implementation.

19. Of all the recommendations, two or three hold the attention of all political circles. These are the recommendations concerning the "dissolution" of the Centre national de recherche et d'investigation (National Research and Investigation Centre (CNRI)) and the Section d'enquête, de recherche et de la documentation (Survey, Research and Documentation Section (SERD)) and the recommendation relating to the reduction of the staff of the Presidential Guard.

20. These recommendations touch on sensitive areas in which it is at present difficult to find a modus vivendi between the head of State, supported by the political parties of the presidential majority, on the one hand, and those in the Group of Eleven, on the other. The International Monitoring Committee is very much aware of this situation and will pursue its efforts to find a solution in keeping with the spirit of the Bangui Agreements.

21. The restructuring of the Central African armed forces, the National Gendarmerie and the Central African Police Force, as advocated in a number of recommendations, appears to be the key to the response to be given to those recommendations. This restructuring was inaugurated on 8 December 1997 by President Ange Félix Patasse, together with President Amadou Toumani Touré, the members of the International Monitoring Committee, the commanders of MISAB, the Minister of National Defence, the deputy ministers in charge of army restructuring and disarmament and the heads of the defence and security services.

22. The general guidelines of the restructuring process were indicated by the head of State, namely, that the future Central African army should be a national, republican and multi-ethnic army that will participate in development and will be low in cost. As interpreted at the practical level by the MISAB general staff, the President's idea is based on the following essential constraints:

- The size of the future Central African army should be in line with the national budgetary capacity, i.e., the Central African army should be able to support itself, equip itself, teach itself and train itself with a minimum of external support;

- The army should be a representative sample of all the ethnic groups living in the Central African Republic and of all its regions;

- The army should operate on an apolitical, non-sectarian and non-tribal basis, i.e., according to the republican model, which is the only appropriate model for ensuring stability, territorial integrity and national independence;

- The army should have multidisciplinary capacities to enable it to participate in national development efforts, especially in the agricultural sector, and in the opening up of the interior for the necessary engineering projects.

23. A national commission has been established by the head of State and placed under the supervision of the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee. It is chaired by the Minister of National Defence and includes the members of the International Monitoring Committee, the MISAB Command and the heads of the national defence and security services. This commission has been asked to develop a restructuring plan following the guidelines indicated by the head of State. It has been meeting since 15 December 1997.

24. The implementation of the demobilization, retraining and reintegration project will help the army to become more capable of operating as a truly republican army. This project would already have been launched if administrative problems had not delayed the arrival of the project head, Mr. Gonzales, who will finally arrive in Bangui on 3 January 1998.

National reconciliation

25. This is the culmination of the long but exciting process of the implementation of the Bangui Agreements. As indicated in the previous reports, this phase is in itself a delicate process in view of the fact that its ultimate aim is to exert a positive influence on the individual and collective psychology of brothers who have confronted each other and maintained, or even cultivated, a climate of general distrust from the outset of the crisis. In practice it has fallen to the International Monitoring Committee, and more particularly to its Chairman, General Amadou Toumani Touré, to carry out the twofold task of managing and then eliminating this climate, hence the need to take a number of actions envisaged in the spirit of the Bangui Agreements with a view to restoring the climate of harmony and concord which prevailed in the Central African Republic at the time of the revered patriot, Barthélémy Boganda.

26. The International Monitoring Committee and the Ministry of Human Rights, National Reconciliation and Democratic Culture, with the logistical, financial and technical support of UNDP, organized awareness-raising seminars in various regions of the country between 18 November and 10 December 1997.

27. The systematic coverage of the country has made it possible to reach, within a reasonable period of time, all the populations of the country. The same messages have been brought to all of them, and rich, in-depth discussions have been held on the need to achieve peace and national reconciliation, conditions conducive to the economic recovery and sustainable development of the country. The conclusions reached during these seminars will no doubt constitute a useful contribution made available to the participants in the National Reconciliation Conference, to be held in February 1998.

28. With regard to the National Reconciliation Conference scheduled to be held from 10 to 14 February 1998, the preparatory committee established on 17 October 1997 is now working on the objectives of the Conference. The committee members are becoming aware, as they proceed, that the National Reconciliation Conference must offer the Central African Republic a framework to enable it to:

- Realize the dimensions of the crisis and the resulting climate, so as to be convinced of the need to create objective conditions for national reconciliation;

- Define the general guidelines for the sustainable development of their country, with an emphasis on ways and means of effectively fighting poverty, the main source of the suffering of the Central African Republic for the past two years;

- Recommend the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for promoting good governance, a precondition for building a democratic, modern nation;

- Draw up a final act in the form of a pact that could serve as a basis for the Government to elaborate a national constitution.

29. It should be recalled that, in addition to the regional seminars referred to in paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 of the previous report, preparatory workshops for the National Reconciliation Conference are scheduled. A youth meeting under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) took place from 10 to 13 December 1997. Another, larger meeting of youth will be held on 16 and 17 January 1998, and a women's forum will be held on 13 and 14 January 1998. All the preparatory workshops have played and will continue to play a significant role in the country's consciousness-raising activities.

30. With regard to the National Reconciliation Conference, it is widely agreed in various circles that a favourable climate for reconciliation should be created, with the following necessary and useful conditions:

- Full application of the various provisions of the Bangui Agreements, in other words, completion of the activities included in the timetable of the International Monitoring Committee (pursuit of disarmament operations, settlement of the issue of the parliamentary audit, indication of political will to make use of the recommendations of the General Meeting on National Defence);

- Continuation of the necessary and useful efforts (including a stepping up of the diplomatic offensive) to find a solution to the financial situation, which remains a cause of concern;

- Launching of initiatives designed to find a solution to the problem of the victims of the rebellions;

- Reassuring indications of prospects of reconstruction, rehabilitation and economic recovery.

COOPERATION WITH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN AUTHORITIES AND THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

31. General Amadou Toumani Touré, Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee, took advantage of his recent stay in Bangui to examine the evolution of the situation with the main protagonists in the country's political and social life. Thus he applied himself to:

- The evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the Bangui Agreements;

- The search for solutions to those provisions which have not yet been implemented or those which are being implemented at a slow pace;

- The study of the various possible hypotheses during the post-MISAB period, in other words, after 6 February 1998, the date on which the mandate authorized by the Security Council in resolution 1136 (1997) expires;

- The joint search for ways and means of finding a solution to the thorny problem of arrears of wages and salaries;

- The study of the elements of the strategy to be adopted to convince the international community of the need to provide direct and effective assistance to the Central African Republic by organizing a round table of donors to be held during the second quarter of 1998.

32. From the summary he made while chairing a meeting of the International Monitoring Committee, the following conclusions made be drawn:

- Considerable progress has taken place since the signature of the Agreements on 25 January 1997 and has made a major contribution to defusing the situation;

- Much nevertheless remains to be done: some important provisions of the Bangui Agreements are still encountering difficulties in their implementation; these provisions must be meticulously listed and receive particular attention from the International Monitoring Committee, which will make new approaches to the various parties involved;

- Everyone in Bangui (the political class, civil society, the military and foreigners) is convinced of the need for the presence after 6 February 1998 of a military and security force which would help consolidate the peace and stimulate the process of national reconciliation; everyone recognizes that even though the elections are not an end in themselves, they deserve to be held in peace, calm and transparency;

- The Central African army needs to be restructured into a true republican army, drawing on the cooperation of available friendly countries; in other words, the Central African army must be capable of taking over from MISAB the various functions the latter is currently performing;

- The social situation continues to give rise to concern, and risks throwing everything back into question if an adequate solution is not found right away. The International Monitoring Committee urges the Government to do everything possible to place the national financial system, which generates resources, on a sound basis, and invites better understanding on the part of the international community, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, in order to help the Central African Republic avoid social disruption;

- A national forum should be organized to discuss the important and delicate issue of the victims of the rebellions and make specific proposals to the Government;

- With the involvement of UNDP as lead agency, a round table of donors should be organized, to take place in the second quarter of 1998, with a view to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country.

33. On 17 December 1997, the President of the Republic dismissed one of the ministers from his party, the Mouvement de Liberation du Peuple Centrafricain (MLPC), namely Mr. Charles Massi, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming, who has been charged with offences which, according to the Government spokesman, took place while he was still serving as Minister of Mines in a previous Government. It should, however, be noted that Mr. Massi, who on 29 November 1997 had established a political association, the Forum Démocratique pour la Modernité (FODEM), wrote to the International Monitoring Committee on 28 December 1997 denouncing a manoeuvre designed to keep him out of the forthcoming elections.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

34. Pursuant to the Security Council's request to the Secretary-General in resolution 1136 (1997) to provide a report within three months on the implementation of that resolution, a multidisciplinary mission from the United Nations Secretariat visited Bangui from 6 to 13 December 1997 to collect the elements necessary for the preparation of the report. The mission, eight strong and headed by Mr. Youssef Mahmoud, Director of the Africa II Division in the Department of Political Affairs, met the head of the Central African State, the Prime Minister, the President of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee, the main ministers concerned, the UNDP Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in Bangui, heads of diplomatic missions, the MISAB Command, the Command of the French Operational Assistance Elements, the Chief of General Staff of the Central African armed forces, the Director of the National Gendarmerie, the various groups of political parties, officials of the groups of affiliated trade

unions, leaders of women's organizations, employers, banking officials and heads of United Nations agencies based in Bangui.

35. The multidisciplinary mission thus had an opportunity to appreciate the evolution of the political, military, security and economic and social situation, and will be able to report a new assessment to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

36. Despite the excellent results obtained in agricultural production (in both cash crops and food crops), the Central African Republic, where industrial and commercial activities have clearly been in a state of paralysis for several months, is still experiencing difficulties in meeting its internal obligations (wages and salaries, pensions, scholarships, the functioning of the State apparatus) and its external commitments, in particular the repayment of the arrears due to the Bretton Woods institutions.

37. Moreover, the thorny problem of arrears of wages and salaries, pensions and scholarships provides a reason for the strike which is still taking place in certain sectors, such as education. The greatest concern of the Central African authorities is therefore to find the necessary resources to resolve this problem of six months' arrears of wages and salaries and several further months' of pensions or scholarships. The groups of affiliated trade unions, which hitherto have demonstrated a great deal of understanding and moderation given the situation, are beginning to show serious signs of discontent: in a memorandum made public on 12 December 1997, they threatened to express their frustration through serious protests. A demonstration scheduled for 15 December was banned, and its participants dispersed.

DEPLOYMENT OF THE FORCE

38. There has been no significant change in the arrangements made since the submission of the previous report. MISAB is continuing to ensure security in all neighbourhoods of the Central African capital by occupying 20 surveillance posts and is participating in joint security patrols in conjunction with the Central African security and defence forces in all districts of Bangui. Hold-ups, armed robberies and other criminal acts have become very rare thanks both to the progress achieved in disarmament and the constant vigilance instituted by the system of joint patrols.

39. With regard to MISAB activities, it is worth noting the moving ceremony held on 18 December 1997 during which the commemorative medal of the Inter-African Force was posthumously awarded to Brigadier-General Augustin Mombo-Moukagni by Colonel Alioune Ibaba, Coordinator of the International Monitoring Committee, deputizing for its Chairman, Amadou Toumani Touré, and acting on behalf of the President of the Gabonese Republic. A number of other individuals (officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks of MISAB, the Central African armed forces and the French Operational Assistance Elements, as well as prominent civilians from the Central African Republic and the International Monitoring Committee) were also decorated on this occasion by Colonel Talla Niang, Chief of Staff and Acting Commander of MISAB and his main colleagues, the commanders of contingents.

40. This ceremony is the second of its kind organized by MISAB following that which took place in July 1997, during which President Amadou Toumani Touré, Brigadier-General Edouard N'Killi, then Commander of MISAB, Colonel Talla Niang, Chief of General Staff and the commanders of the six contingents, the members of the International Monitoring Committee and officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks of the French Operational Assistance Elements and the Central African armed forces received this commemorative MISAB medal awarded by the President of the Gabonese Republic in his capacity as Chairman of the International Mediations Committee.

CONCLUSIONS

41. The success of the deployment of MISAB will depend above all on the understanding shown by the international community, specifically in the consistent application of paragraph 6 of resolution 1136 (1997); the Special Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the Security Council needs to be provisioned within a reasonable period of time. Pending the adequate provisioning of that Fund or any other decision of the Security Council, an interim solution is desirable, namely extension of the effect of Security Council resolution 1136 (1997) relating to the mandate of MISAB for a two-month period.

42. The International Monitoring Committee hopes to continue to enjoy the logistical and technical support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to pursue its twofold mission of ensuring the political direction of MISAB and monitoring the implementation of the Bangui Agreements through continuing mediation.

43. In order to avoid any slippage or any risk of a return to square one which might lead to social disruption, it is urged that all measures should be taken at the appropriate levels, including the level of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to arouse a greater awareness among States Members of the United Nations, international organizations and financial institutions with a view to providing the necessary assistance to the development of the Central African Republic, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 9 of resolution 1136 (1997). All of these measures will of course accompany the essential efforts of the Central African authorities. Any other approach might compromise that country's chance of turning the page of the crisis once and for all, and thus lead irrevocably to the failure of this special experiment in internal settlement which the current mediation in the Central African Republic constitutes.

44. As it has stated on many occasions, the International Monitoring Committee will continue to spare no effort in urging all the parties to the Central African crisis to continue to work with wisdom and dignity towards the effective implementation of the Bangui Agreements. This is the price of genuine and lasting peace.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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LETTER DATED 5 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you and, through you, the members of the Security Council that, pursuant to paragraph 8 (a) (ii) of Council resolution 986 (1995), the Iraqi Government has submitted to me its plan for the purchase and distribution of humanitarian supplies during the additional period specified in Security Council resolution 1143 (1997). The Iraqi Government was informed today that I had approved that plan on the understanding that its implementation would be governed by resolutions 986 (1995) and 1143 (1997) and the memorandum of understanding, and would be without prejudice to the procedures followed by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990).

A copy of the list of supplies and goods accompanying the distribution will be made available to the Committee. This list has been scrutinized by experts of the United Nations Special Commission, who have noted that some of the items appearing on it would be subject to notification under the mechanism for monitoring exports and imports that was adopted by the Council in its resolution 1051 (1996). The list of items in question is also being forwarded to the Committee. The distribution plan and the letter conveying my acceptance of the plan are attached.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

Annex I

[Original: English]

Letter dated 5 January 1998 from the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme addressed to the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I wish to acknowledge receipt, under cover of your letter dated 5 January 1998 addressed to the Secretary-General, of the revised distribution plan submitted by your Government for the third phase, and would like to inform you that I have been authorized by the Secretary-General to convey in this respect the following.

Security Council resolutions 986 (1995) and 1143 (1997) require that Iraq shall guarantee, on the basis of a plan submitted and approved by the Secretary-General, equitable distribution of medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs, and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs (humanitarian supplies) exported to Iraq under the conditions defined by those resolutions. The memorandum of understanding concluded on 20 May 1996 between the United Nations Secretariat and the Government of Iraq for the implementation of resolution 986 (1995) provides that the Government of Iraq shall prepare a distribution plan describing in detail the procedures to be followed by the competent Iraqi authorities with a view to ensuring equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies and submit such plan to the Secretary-General for approval. The memorandum states in this regard that if the Secretary-General is satisfied that the plan adequately ensures equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi population throughout the country, he will so inform the Government of Iraq.

I have the honour to inform the Government of Iraq through you that, having examined the distribution plan, the Secretary-General has come to the conclusion that the distribution plan for the third phase as finally submitted on 5 January 1998, if properly implemented, should meet the requirements of equitable distribution of humanitarian goods to the Iraqi population throughout the country. The distribution plan is, therefore, approved with the following understanding.

The approval of the distribution plan is subject to the condition that its implementation is governed by the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 986 (1995) and 1143 (1997) and the memorandum of understanding and that, in case of inconsistency between the particular provisions of the plan, on the one hand, and the resolutions and the memorandum of understanding, on the other, the provisions of the latter documents shall prevail.

As to the needs of the vulnerable groups referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 2 June 1997 (S/1997/419), pursuant to the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under Security Council resolutions 986 (1995) and 1143 (1997) to determine and report on the adequacy of resources to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi population, the United Nations will continue to

observe the situation of such groups in the light of the assurances of your Government contained in the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, dated 30 July 1997, that the needs of such groups will be met by the Government outside the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The approval of the distribution plan is without prejudice to the procedures to be employed by the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning export to Iraq of parts and equipment which are essential for the safe operation of the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline system in Iraq.

The plan includes a categorized list of supplies and goods to be purchased and imported under the distribution plan. The approval of the plan is without prejudice to actions that might be taken by the Security Council Committee regarding applications for export of particular items contained in the list submitted for the Committee's consideration in accordance with its procedures.

Likewise, the categorized list contains certain items the export of which to Iraq must be notified to the joint unit established by Security Council resolution 1051 (1996) as these items will be subject to monitoring because of their possible dual use for civilian or for prohibited purposes under Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant resolutions.

The approval of the distribution plan submitted by the Government of Iraq does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of all information or statements contained in the plan.

It should be noted that the approval of the plan is without prejudice to any recommendations that may be contained in a supplementary report referred to in paragraph 6 of resolution 1143 (1997), which the Secretary-General intends to submit to the Security Council.

(Signed) Benon V. SEVAN
Executive Director
Office of the Iraq Programme

Annex II

Letter dated 5 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose the revised distribution plan submitted by the Government of the Republic of Iraq in accordance with resolution 1143 (1997) and the memorandum of understanding.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

Distribution plan submitted by the Government of Iraq to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Distribution Plan, referred to in paragraph 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 20 May 1996 between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Secretariat (hereinafter "the MOU") for the procurement and distribution of food, medicine, medical supplies and other essential civilian humanitarian supplies to help alleviate the hardship suffered by the Iraqi people, constitutes an important element in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 986 (1995), (hereinafter "the Resolution") and SCR 1143 (1997) extending the provisions of the Resolution for another six months.

2. For the three northern Iraqi governorates, namely Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah, the procurement and distribution of essential civilian humanitarian supplies will be the responsibility of the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme, (hereinafter "the Programme",) in accordance with paragraph 20 of the MOU and paragraphs 3 and 6 of its Annex I. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Annex I of the MOU, the humanitarian requirements of the three northern governorates in the Distribution Plan, (hereinafter "the Plan") were identified by the Programme, taking into consideration all relevant circumstances in the three northern governorates and in the rest of the country, in order to ensure equitable distribution. These requirements were discussed with the Government of Iraq and incorporated in the Plan.

3. It is expected that a grand total of US$1,320 million will be available to address the humanitarian requirements of the Iraqi people for a period of six months. Of this amount, the Plan allocates US$805 million for food distribution. The food distribution programme will ensure a daily energy

intake of 2,030 kcal and 47 gm of plant protein per person/day. Subject, where applicable, to the provisions of the MOU relating to the three northern governorates, food distribution will be implemented within the existing rationing practice. Furthermore, about US$65 million worth of soap and detergents will be procured and distributed along with the food rations as per the current practice in Iraq. Another US$36 million is earmarked for equipment, spare parts for food processing and logistics equipment to ensure functioning of the distribution system. In Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah, the Programme will give supplementary assistance to vulnerable children and mothers through a nutrition project budgeted at US$10 million.

4. The Plan allocates US$ 200 million for medicines and medical supplies. Subject to the provisions of the MOU relating to the three northern governorates, these items will reach the actual beneficiaries through hospitals and primary health care centers in Iraq, using the existing distribution system. 'The reduction of US$10 million in the total medical allocations is based on the decision of the Programme to reallocate these funds to other sectors in the three northern governorates in view of the sufficient quantities of medicines and medical supplies for the north still in the delivery pipeline from the Phases I and II. All Iraqi citizens and foreign residents have access to the public health services. In addition to the provision of life-saving drugs and medical supplies throughout the country, essential equipment of urgent need will be procured and some damaged health infrastructure will be rehabilitated in the three northern governorates. The share of medicines and medical supplies of the three northern governorates is US$18.5 million. Another US$10 million is earmarked for rehabilitation of health infrastructure in the three northern governorates.

5. The condition of clean water supply and sanitation services remains critical all over Iraq. It is estimated that the rehabilitation of this sector requires over US$500 million. However, due to the shortage of resources, this Plan allocates only US$44.17 million for this sector. US$8.4 million is earmarked for the repair of water and sewage facilities in Baghdad serving about 6.5 million people in the city and the surrounding districts. Another US$15.77 million will be used to repair water and sanitation facilities in the

rest of the country. The balance of US$20 million will be utilized for the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in the three northern governorates.

6. Full rehabilitation of electric power generation, transmission and distribution, requires approximately US$675 million of which US$49.17 million was provided under the previous Distribution Plan phase I and US$55.3 million for phase II.The current Plan allocates a further US$61.5 million to maintain and repair electric power stations all over the country. Part of the allocation is for transmission and distribution networks in different parts of Iraq. The share of the three northern governorates is estimated at US$26 million.

7. A sum of US$50 million is allocated to address the most urgent needs in the agriculture sector, in particular for plant protection, control of livestock diseases and provision of fertilizers and quality seeds. There is also a severe shortage of agricultural machinery and spare parts and pumps and irrigation requirements. Of the total, US$26 million is earmarked for the three northern governorates.

8. The education environment throughout Iraq remains poor. This Plan makes a modest allocation of US$27 million to the education sector, of which US$15 is earmarked for the governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah. The allocation will be used to repair some of the damaged schools, to provide basic stationery, desks, and other urgently needed school materials, especially for primary education. A modest share of US$3.6 million has been allocated to support higher education, particularly for provision of books and materials for the departments of medicine, pharmacology, dentistry and nursing in the Iraqi universities.

9. To meet the special needs of the population in the three northern governorates, provisions have been made for activities regarding de-mining and resettlement at estimated costs of US$1 million and US$11 million, respectively. Categorized lists of requirements shall be provided by implementing UN Agencies.

10. The humanitarian requirements for the whole population of Iraq are enormous due to the cumulative deterioration of living and environmental conditions during the past seven years. The humanitarian situation in Iraq was reviewed in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 11 of the Resolution and reported in the United Nations Secretary-General's 180-day report (S/1997/935 dated 28 November 1997), pointing out that the various sectors mentioned in the above paragraphs of this excutive summary still suffer from shortages despite the implementation of the previous Distribution Plans (phase I and phase II).

11. The Government of Iraq confirms its willingness to cooperate fully with the Programme, and to allow the Programme to observe, throughout the country, the equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies imported under this Plan. To this end, United Nations personnel working for the Programme shall have, in connection with the performance of their functions, unrestricted freedom of movement and access in accordance with paragraph 44 of the MOU.

Table 1

Allocations to selected sectors covered by the Plan

(Millions of United States dollars)

Sector/Activity	Allocations (Countrywide)	Allocations for Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah
Food	804.63	113.30
Soap/detergent	65.38	9.20
Equipment/Spare parts for food processing, logistics	36.00	-
Sub-total	906.01	122.5
Medicine/supplies	200	18.5
Nutrition	10	10
Health/repairs	10	10
Water and Sanitation	44.17	20
Electricity	61.5	26
Agriculture	50	26
Education	27	15
Resettlement	11	11
Demining	1	1
GRAND TOTALS	**1,320.68**	**260**

Part One

Procurement and Distribution Plan for Food

Introduction

12. Following the UN Security Council Resolution 661 (1990) imposing sanctions on Iraq, the Government of Iraq established a special rationing system to ensure the distribution of foodstuffs to all Iraqi citizens, Arab and foreigners residing in Iraq. The system was launched on 1 September 1990. It is presently applied throughout the country with the exception of the three northern Iraqi governorates. In accordance with the MOU, the Programme will be responsible for the distribution of foodstuffs to the population in the three northern governorates on behalf of the Government of Iraq.

Main features of the system

13. The main partners of the current system are:

i) The Ministry of Trade/Government of Iraq.
ii) The consumers (citizens of Iraq, Arabs and foreign residents).
iii) Retail ration agents of the (private sector).

14. The responsibility of the Ministry of Trade is to undertake, on a monthly basis, the distribution of foodstuffs to the retail ration agents in their designated areas, and to ensure their delivery to the households registered with the concerned agent. There are more than 45864 ration agents serving the local consumers in the fifteen governorates and over 10,000 agents in the three northern governorates. Furthermore, to ensure the adequacy, continuity and regularity of supplies of foodstuffs in conformity with the rationing cards, the related coupons are collected from the households monthly by the retail ration agents. Each rationing card has a number of coupons that correspond to basic food items involved in the system and covers one calendar year.

15. The chart of the rationing card system currently in application for the distribution of foodstuffs as it is illustrated in Annex 3/Food of the previous Distribution Plan , Phase I.

16. Every Iraqi citizen, Arab and foreign resident in Iraq is entitled by law to obtain a "rationing card" from the Registration Centers. These centers establish lists of families by name, age and number of consumers in each household and send the lists to the computer center. The computer center sends one copy of each list to the nearest retail ration agent shop to the domicile of the concerned households, and another copy of the list to the food distribution centers.

17. The monthly individual ration under the current system is the same for each individual with regard to commodities, quantity and the related nominal fee. Households are well informed through public and private mass media, on a monthly basis, of their entitlements and on the time of distribution in various distribution centers.

18. The follow-up mechanism to ensure effective and proper implementation of the rationing system is done through:

    i) The concerned monitoring offices of the Ministry of Trade.
    ii) Elected District People's Councils, and
    iii) Citizens.

19. The beneficiaries of the system have the right to submit to the Ministry of Trade complaints against the retail ration agent in their designated areas, if they discover that the agent is violating the relevant regulations. Accordingly, the Ministry of Trade circulates a questionnaire among all households registered with the said agent. If the findings show that 51% of the participating households in the process condemn the agent, his agency license will be canceled and a new retail agent will be immediately appointed.

20. Mechanisms of obtaining the rationing card, the required documents and registration of complaints are as stated in the previous Distribution Plan, phase I, paragraphs 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.

Observation of Distribution

21. The role of the Programme in the context of the observation of the equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies and the determination of their adequacy under the Plan will be in accordance with paragraphs 37 and 38 of the MOU.

Distribution Plan of foodstuffs

22. The food distribution mechanism stipulated under paragraphs 25, 26, 27 and 28 of the previous Distribution Plan, phase I , shall be followed also under this Plan.

Maintenance, repairs, rehabilitation and replacement of equipment required on a priority basis for the handling, storage, processing and distribution of food products

23. The existing infrastructure will not be able to cope with the total quantity of food commodities to be brought in ove. the six-month period of this Plan as shown in Table 3. A comprehensive list representing the priority of equipment and spare parts that are needed for processing, handling, storage and distribution of the large quantity of foods is contained in Annex (Trade-2) and shall be procured at an estimated cost of US$36 million.

Procurement and storage arrangements

24. Arrangements for procurement, storage and transport of food supplies under this Plan shall remain as stated in paragraph 30 of the previous Distribution Plan , Phase I.

Locations of the Independent Inspection Agents

25. The locations of the Independent Inspection will remain as stipulated under paragraphs 31 of the previous Distribution Plan, Phase I. In addition, the entry point of Al-Waleed was designated by the Secretary-General on 31 July 1997, after consultation with the GOI.

Warehouses

26. Specially designated warehouses will be allocated for foodstuffs imported by the Government of Iraq under the Plan. The sites of these warehouses will be within the main storage complexes of the Ministry of Trade located throughout the governorates of Iraq.

27. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex I of the MOU, humanitarian supplies destined for distribution in the three northern governorates shall be delivered by the Programme to warehouses within these governorates. Warehouses in Mosul and Kirkuk to which supplies may also be delivered either by the Government of Iraq or the Programme, shall be under the management of the Programme.

Table 2

Iraqi population by governorate covered by the Plan

Governorate	Population	Adults*	Children under one
Ninevah	2168807	2104061	64746
Tameem	790824	769487	21337
Baghdad	5748755	5581367	167388
Salah Al-Din	899978	873757	26221
Diala	1125243	1094038	31205
Anbar	1114885	1078846	36039
Babylon	1242968	1208897	34071
Kerbala	651537	632760	18777
Najaf	818956	792274	26682
Qadisiya	794821	771098	23723
Muthana	479851	464040	15811
Basrah	1722445	1664190	58255
Maysan	718455	688234	30221
Thi-Qar	1318681	1273347	45334
Wasit	819356	796187	23169
Dohuk**	725047	707108	17939
Erbil**	1123255	1100253	23002
Suleimaniyah**	1440586	1417899	22687
Total	23704450	23017843	686607

- THE NUMBER OF ADULTS WERE CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF THE ACTUAL FIGURE OF THE BENEFICIARIES DURING NOVEMBER 1997 AND ADDING MONTHLY, THE FIGURE OF 61700 PERSON, REPRESENTING AVERAGE PROJECTED GROWTH FOR EACH MONTH FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO NOV. 1997, THEN TAKEN THE AVERAGE OF MONTHLY FIGURE BETWEEN JUNE 1998-NOV.1998.

** BASED ON THE ACTUAL FIGURE OF NOV. 1997 ADDING MONTHLY, THE FIGURE OF 39789 CHILD, REPRESENTING AVERAGE INCREASE IN THE NO. OF CHILDREN FROM MAY 1997 DUE TO THE PREVIOUS REGULATIONS THAT ALLOW FAMILIES TO TAKE FOOD INSTEAD OF MILK UNTIL MAY 1998.

Table 3

Consolidated Plan and Categorized List of Foodstuffs, Soaps and Detergents

Items (1)	Monthly ration per capita (kg) (2)	Total monthly requirements (ton) (3)**	Total needs for six months (ton) (4)	Required value for six months (US$) (5)***
1. Food, wheat flour*	9.000	247419	1491523	306,000,000
Rice	2.500	58695	352170	120,000,000
Sugar	2.000	46956	281736	108,000,000
Tea	0.150	3470	20820	43,000,000
Cooking oil	1.000	23478	140868	114,000,000
Milk powder	2.700	1856	11136	33,000,000
Pulses	1.000	23478	140868	78,000,000
Iodized Salt	0.150	3552	21312	3,000,000
Subtotal				805,000,000
2.Soaps and detergents soap	0.250	5926	35556	31,000,000
Detergents	0.350	8463	50778	34,000,000
Total				65,000,000
Grand total				870,000,000

Note: these figures represent indicative quantities and values subject to actual distribution and market conditions.

1- wheat is to be processed and distributed to beneficiaries as wheat flour . the conversion rate used is 10 kg of wheat to 8.5 kg of wheat flour.

2- quantities are calculated on the basis of population figures listed in table2 . the following allowances to retail agents are added to ensure the accurate ration weight is given to customers : 2 % for wheat flour , rice , sugar , cooking oil , pulses , salt , and detergents : 0.5% for tea. No additional quantities are given to the agents for milk powder and soap as these items are distributed by tins and pieces respectively.

3- children under one year of age receive only milk powder , soap and detergents.

4- The reduction of wheat/flour conversion rate from 10/9 to 10/8.5 is based on the estimation of actual losses due to impurities and milling processes, while also aiming at obtaining a finer quality of flour and absorbing the margin of milling cost/profit.

Part Two

Procurement and Distribution Plan for Medicine and Medical Supplies

Introduction

28. In formulating its health policy, the Government of Iraq has followed the guidelines of the World Health Organization action programme on essential medicine:

* To make effective, safe and low cost medicine available and affordable to meet the needs of the entire population of Iraq.
* To ensure that medicines are of good quality and rationally used.

29. The Plan is formulated to meet the actual need for medicine, vaccines, medical supplies, equipment, spare parts and other essential items within the framework of these policy objectives to ensure equitable distribution. Because of the current situation, the health facilities in Iraq are faced with a severe shortage of these critically needed items and supplies. This health situation is seriously aggravated by the poor environmental quality, malnutrition and difficult socio-economic conditions. The prevailing precarious public health situation in Iraq has been graphically reported by UN Agency reports and the 180-day report (S/1997/935 dated 28 November 1997) of the UN Secretary-General.

30. Before August 1990, the health care system in Iraq was based on an extensive and well developed network of primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities. These facilities were linked among themselves and with the community by a large fleet of ambulances and service vehicles, and by good communication network facilitating referral to the next level of the health care system.

31. It was estimated by the Government of Iraq that 97% and 78% of the urban and rural populations, respectively, had access to health care. Table 5 gives the distribution of the health infrastructure throughout the country. While the system tended to emphasize curative aspects, it was complemented by a set of public health activities that included malaria control, expanded programme of immunizations, tuberculosis control activities, etc.

32. Presently, there is an urgent need in Iraq for medical equipment and supplies, including essential drugs, as well as for medical supplies and chemicals used in the control of insect borne diseases that are endemic in Iraq. Supplies, such as X-ray machines, CAT scans, laboratory equipment and health infrastructure are in need of repair. It is estimated that only one quarter of the medical equipment available in health care facilities is still operational.

33. Regarding drugs and medical supplies, the situation is alarming. Patients are, at best, offered doses lower than what would normally be required by their health condition. The output of local production has been reduced drastically. In 1989, the Ministry of Health (MOH) spent over US$ 500 million for the procurement of drugs and medical supplies.

34. It is imperative that the Plan ensures the provision of good quality drugs at low cost that are affordable in meeting the needs of the entire population of Iraq. Vaccines, medical and surgical supplies and dental and diagnostic equipment are other categories that require attention. The provision of insecticides, vector control equipment and the re-equipping or replacement of the fleet of ambulances for the transport of patients and provision field transport for ensuring liaison within the health network, is another priority that requires urgent attention within the Plan. It should be stressed that the public health sector cannot be improved by the provision of medicine and medical supplies only. The infrastructure of hospitals and health centers are almost in a state of collapse and urgently in need of provision of spare parts for rehabilitation. The supply of ambulances must continue and are essential to provide effective public health care. Another 200 ambulances under the Plan remain as priority requirements (Table-4). Dentistry apparatuses are also among the most urgent requirements.

35. The health situation in the three Iraqi northern governorates has continued to deteriorate over the past seven years. Only 10% of the more than 381 primary health care centres in the region are currently able to provide maternity/child health care services. There is a marked reduction in the availability of drugs and medical supplies. A similar shortage of essential equipment for diagnostic and curative purposes exists. Thus, the main components of the health plan for these governorates include provision for basic essential drugs, the repair and maintenance of health infrastructure

and spare parts for non-functioning hospital equipment. These are included in the Plan which allocates US$ 18.5 million for medicines and medical supplies and another US$ 10 million for health infrastructure repairs.

36. In accordance with the MOU, the Programme will be responsible in the three northern governorates for the distribution of medicines and health supplies. The Programme has ensured that its identification of needs in the health sector meets the essential requirements of these governorates.

Components of the Plan

37. The components of the Plan for estimation of needs, procedures for regulation, and importation, storage and distribution of medicines and medical supplies are those stated under paragraph 43 of the previous Distribution Plan:

38. The sum of US$300 million is required to meet the total need for medicine and medical supplies at the minimum level only throughout Iraq during a six-month period. Under the present Plan, US$200 million has been allocated to meet only the most urgent requirements and needs. To achieve an equitable distribution of medical supplies, the allocated funds will be distributed among governorates on the basis of US$1.5 million per million persons per month.

39. In accordance with paragraph 39 of the MOU, the government of Iraq shall provide detailed information to the Programme regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to specific destinations in order to facilitate observation and confirmation of their utilization. The Programme will also perform the functions provided for in Paragraph 8 of Annex 1 of the MOU.

Table-4

Distribution of Ambulances*

Serial no.	Governorates	Number of ambulances
1.	Nineveh	14
2.	Tameem	6
3.	Baghdad	60
4.	Salah Al-Din	8
5.	Diala	8
6.	Anbar	10
7.	Babylon	8
8.	Kerbala	6
9.	Najaf	6
10.	Qadisyia	6
11.	Muthana	6
12.	Basrah	16
13.	Maysan	8
14.	Thi-Qar	8
15.	Wasit	6
16.	Dohuk	6
17.	Erbil	8
18.	Suleimaniyah	10
Total		200

*- The Ambulances in this table will be distributed according to criteria one ambulance per 100000 of the population

Part Three

Procurement Plan for Water and Sewage

40. In view of the importance of potable water and sanitation for public health, the Government of Iraq has adopted a long term programme to provide these services according to international scientific standards per capita. However, the implementation of this policy has been severely hampered by the lack of resources and equipment and the consequent disruption of services over the last seven years. It is estimated that rehabilitation of the existing facilities would require about US$510 million. This does not take into account the development of new water projects and facilities to meet the needs of the growing population. In order to address only the most urgent humanitarian needs in this sector, the Plan allocates a total of US$44.17 million of which US$24.17 million is allocated for Baghdad and the 14 other governorates and US$20 million for the three northern governorates.

41. The production of drinking water in the 14 governorates amounts to 1400 million cubic meters per year. The design production of Baghdad amounts to 850 million cubic meters per year. However, due to delay in the arrival of supplies under the previous Distribution Plan, the estimated efficiency of the existing facilities remains at less than 40% of their design capacity. The percentage of waste is estimated at more than 40% of the actually produced water.

42. As regards sanitation, the design capacity of the 14 governorates, except for Baghdad, amounts to 153 million cubic meters per year, and the design capacity for Baghdad amounts to 680 million cubic meters per year. In addition, there are 256 pumping stations comprising more than 1,000 vertical and submerged pumps. Although the system requires complete renovation, the present Plan seeks to provide only the minimum requirements for maintaining and operating the system during the next six months. As per details given in the annexes, the estimated cost of minimum repairs amounts to about US$4 million per month including the sum of US$2.6 million per month for the 14 governorates and about US$1.4 million per month for Baghdad, which serves the capital and the surrounding districts.

43. Spare parts and urgently required equipment are described in the attached Annexes numbered 1-8/Water/Sanitation.

44. In accordance with paragraph 40 of the MOU, the Government of Iraq shall provide detailed information to the Programme regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to specific destinations in order to facilitate observation and confirmation of their utilization. The Programme will also perform the functions provided for in paragraph 8 of Annex 1 of the MOU.

Part Four

Procurement Plan for Electrical Power

Introduction

45. The inadequacy of electricity due to the damage suffered by this vital sector and non-availability of spare parts and equipment causes major problems in the whole country.

46. The shortage of electricity has resulted in further daily load shedding throughout Iraq, from Dohuk in the north to Basrah in the south. The shortage reached 1600 MW in July 1996, and the peak load reached about 5,300 MW in 1997. While the situation in this sector continued to deteriorate, the peak load in the summer of 1998 is expected to reach 5,600 MW. Annex I/Electricity is a chart showing the installed capacity, the maximum available capacity, the peak load and the generation shortage during July 1997. The operation of the electric system with this shortage has led to power cuts to all types of consumers including hospitals, water plants, sewage plants, wheat milling plants, irrigation and pumping stations, schools and universities, in addition to complete residential areas and other services.

47. The current Plan allocates US$61.5 million to the energy sector. The Plan concentrates on meeting the requirements of steam, gas, and hydroelectrical power stations throughout Iraq. Part of the allocations is earmarked to transmission and distribution networks in different parts of Iraq. US$26 million of the total is earmarked for the three northern governorates. Annex 2/Electricity includes a categorized list of the spare parts to meet the above requirements.

48. In accordance with paragraph 41 of the MOU, the Government of Iraq shall provide detailed information to the Programme regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to specific locations to facilitate observation and confirmation of their utilization. The Programme will also perform the functions provided for in paragraph 8 of Annex I of the MOU.

Part Five

Procurement and Distribution Plan for Agriculture

Introduction

49. Local food production and productivity have drastically deteriorated during the last years as a result of the adoption of horizontal expansion because of the absence of basic inputs needed for the vertical expansion. Consequently, plant pests and diseases are widespread. This has been compounded by the shortage of pesticides, herbicides and operating spraying helicopters. Similar deterioration has been manifested in tne field of animal production due to the shortage in animal vaccines, drugs and veterinary treatment and diagnostic instruments.

50. The Government of Iraq attaches utmost importance to the agriculture sector in order to raise the level of food production as, under the prevailing conditions, the country has to rely heavily on domestic production to meet the needs. Despite the measures taken by the government and the UN agencies, the output remains seriously constrained as a result of the inadequate supply of essential inputs.

51. The agriculture sector needs to undertake several aerial and ground campaigns to control main crop pests on cereals, date palms, cotton, sunflower and vegetables. The reduction in pest infestations can play a major role by increasing food production and by decreasing losses caused by pests.

52. In the animal production sector most of the diseases reported during the past seven years have been characterized by the shortage of basic medicines and vaccines as well as veterinary equipment. This has dramatically reduced the capacity of veterinary services to combat and control the outbreak of diseases.

53. All agricultural sectors in Iraq are highly mechanized; however, large numbers of machinery are either out of operation or are operating inefficiently due to lack of spare parts and shortage of tractors . This has

negatively affected crop production and soil preparation. The result has been increasing harvest losses as well as a reduction in irrigated areas.

Basic Strategy and Requirements

54. The basic strategy of the present Plan is to maintain the current level of agricultural production through securing the plant, animal protection and preventive requirements, Priority needs such as pesticides, herbicides, aerial and ground spraying and veterinary requirements also machinary and irrigation requirments are considered, but not fully addressed in view of the limited funds. The proposed requirements correspond to the minimum requirements to respond to the needs of small farmers throughout the country in order to prevent further deterioration, which could lead to a collapse of the sector.

55. For this purpose, the Plan allocates US$50 million for the agriculture sector. Agricultural inputs at an estimated value of US$24 million shall be distributed in the fifteen governorates (see Annexes /Agri. 1-4). The balance of US$26 million is allocated for the three northern governorates of (Dohuk, Erbil, and Suleimaniyah). The basic inputs are fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, spraying equipment, agricultural machinery, irrigation pumps, tractors spare parts and veterinary supplies.

56. The same methodologies as described in the previous Plan Phase I , paragraphs 72, 73 and 74, will apply for the above mentioned inputs. Detailed distribution list for tractors and ground spraying equipment is attached in Annex/Agri. 5.

57. The procurement and distribution of agricultural equipment and supplies for Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah will be carried out by the Programme in accordance with the MOU. The Plan aims at providing the most essential inputs for farmers taking in to account the resource constraints. Accordingly, eight projects are included in the Plan for a total cost of US$26 million as detailed in the table below:

Agriculture Projects for Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah

ANNEXES	PROJECT TITLE	REQUIREMENT IN US$ *
6	Plant protection	3,060,446
7	Plant Production	5,362,794
8	Crop and Forestry Services Equipment and Supplies	1,801,034
9	Revival of small-scale poultry production	1,900,000
10	Control of animal diseases	3,323,134
11	Provision of irrigation pumps, pipes, maintenance equipment, Services and spare parts	8,000,000
12	Provision of spare parts for agricultural machinery	2,483,504
13	Reactivation (beekeeping)	69,088
	Total	26,000,000

* FAO operational and programme costs included

58. Details of the agricultural inputs supply and equipment for Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah are shown in Annexes (Agri. /6 to Agri./13).

59. In accordance with paragraph 41 of the MOU, the Government of Iraq shall provide detailed information to the Programme regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to specific destinations in order to facilitate observation and confirmation of their utilization. The Programme will also perform the functions provide for in paragraph 8 of Annex 1 of the MOU.

60. Agricultural lands (400 000 donums) in thi Qar , Basrah , and Missan Governorates were reclaimed and allocated to farmers and are ready for cultivation to incrase agricultural production . therefore ,there is a great need for pumping units for this project to cover the irrigation requirements for this area to maximize food Production . There is also a need to drill new water wells Karbala , Najaf , Anbar ,Tameem and Diyala to provide water for drinking and agricultural needs.

Part Six

Procurement and Distribution Plan for Education

61. The primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education in Iraq have been affected by severe shortages of the most basic teaching materials, school furniture, textbooks, stationery and other basic requirements of the education sector. The magnitude of requirements in the sector is illustrated by the size of the student population estimated at a total of 5 million. Damaged classrooms in 4,157 schools remain unrepaired, and in many instances classrooms have no doors and windows. Upto 70 pupils share one classroom, which under normal circumstances accommodates only 30. A large number of schools remain without clean water supply and sanitation facilities.

62. The prevailing situation has resulted in a decreased rate of school enrollment and a substantial increase in the rate of school dropouts, especially at the primary and secondary levels. Lack of basic teaching aids and materials has also affected the quality of education in the country. While the overall requirements for the immediate basic needs throughout the country are estimated at $130 million, excluding higher education, the present Plan allocates only $27 million for the basic needs. Some basic supplies for higher education are included at an estimated cost of US$3.6 million (see Annex/Edu.1).

63. The educational infrastructure in the three northern governorates has suffered extensive damage. In addition, there is a severe shortage of basic educational materials including books. US$15 million is earmarked for urgently needed school supplies, for rehabilitation of damaged schools and for staff training in the region. (See Annex/Edu.2 supplies for the three northern governorates.)

64. In accordance with paragraph 41 of the MOU, the Government of Iraq shall provide detailed information to the Programme regarding the delivery of supplies and equipment to specific destinations in order to facilitate observation and confirmation of their utilization. The Programme will also perform the functions provided for in paragraph 8 of Annex I of the MOU.

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LETTER DATED 2 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Omar Mustafa Muntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 2 January 1998 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

You doubtless noted the statements that were made by the official spokesman for the White House and by the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations on the occasion of the painful anniversary of the destruction of Pan Am flight 103. Both of them said that people were still waiting for justice to be done despite the fact that nine years had passed since the downing of the aircraft. They both stressed that the two men accused should be brought to trial either in the United States or in Scotland and that the Security Council resolutions should be implemented. The statement made by the United States representative confirms the underlying political intention, inasmuch as he set himself up as though he alone represented the Security Council. He thus did the Council a disservice and confirmed the fact that the real problem is between his country and Libya and not between the Council and Libya.

Both speakers wilfully persisted in concealing the truth from public opinion, in conveying to the families of the victims the erroneous impression that the United States was not responsible for the long and distressing wait and in claiming that Libya had failed to comply with Security Council resolutions. Justice could have been done long ago if the United States and the United Kingdom had accepted any of the initiatives or proposals, put forward either by Libya or by the international community as represented by various regional and international organizations, which offer a peaceful, just and fair solution that safeguards the rights of all the parties to the Lockerbie issue. It is the United States of America that is obstructing justice by refusing to have the accused men tried by a just and fair tribunal free of the atmosphere of prior condemnation constantly enkindled and kept alight by the statements made by the officials and the news media of the two countries in question.

As is well known, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has left no stone unturned in seeking a peaceful solution to this dispute. All it has sought to do is to ensure the right of the accused to a just and fair trial at a venue where they have not been found guilty in advance. There is no such place in the United States of America or in the United Kingdom. Libya has proposed many initiatives, and it has accepted many of the suggestions made by regional and international organizations. It accepted the proposal of the League of Arab States that the two suspects should be tried by a court in a neutral country and then the League's proposal, as endorsed by the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, that they should be tried at The Hague by Scottish judges and in accordance with Scottish law. It also supported the options proposed to the Security Council by the Secretaries-General of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity. Those options met with wide support not only from international and regional organizations but also from distinguished international leaders and personages, who viewed them as a realistic and

workable way to resolve the dispute in a manner satisfactory to all parties. The options were as follows:

(a) That the two suspects should be tried in a neutral country to be designated by the Security Council;

(b) That the two suspects should be tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice at The Hague in accordance with Scottish law;

(c) That a special criminal tribunal should be established at the seat of the International Court of Justice at The Hague to try the accused.

The statements made by United States officials, as well as being obstructive and preventing justice from being done by rejecting the search for a peaceful, just and fair solution, are also an expression of the obduracy, arrogance and contempt that the United States continues to display towards the international community. Such policies do not help to end the problem but rather serve to exacerbate the suffering of the families of the victims, who constantly call for the establishment of a just and fair tribunal at a neutral venue, and, at the same time, to prolong the suffering of the Libyan Arab people and the human and material damage increasingly being caused.

In the light of the foregoing, no one can claim to be more concerned than Libya or than the families of the victims for justice to be done and for the suffering to stop. This is the reason for Libya's insistence, which is supported by the families of the victims, on the need for the accused to be tried promptly in accordance with the most basic of the norms of justice, namely the right to a just and fair trial in an atmosphere free of prior condemnation.

Accordingly, the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation sees no justification for fabricating excuses, for any delay in holding the trial or, indeed, for prolonging the sanctions and the suffering of the families of the victims.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa MUNTASSER
Secretary of the General People's
Committee for Foreign Liaison and
International Cooperation

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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 28 to 31 December 1997 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 28-31 December 1997

1. In the northern region 62 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar, Baibo, Rawanduz, Kuysanjaq and Dukan.

2. In the southern region 238 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Kut, Rumaythah, Habariyah, Rahhaliyah, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Lasaf, Hamzah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Diwaniyah and Maymunah.

3. One sortie was flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Lebanon hereby requests the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 January 1998, for a further interim period of six months, on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council.

In view of Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon and the serious setbacks suffered by the peace process, it must be emphasized that the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) remains the only way to stop the violence in southern Lebanon, enabling the Government of Lebanon to extend its sovereign authority throughout the area under occupation to the internationally recognized boundaries and re-establish law and order throughout the region.

In this context, UNIFIL represents the international community's commitment to the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty and territorial integrity. The role of UNIFIL is to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces, restore international peace and security and assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

The Monitoring Group, which emanated from the April 1996 understanding, in the wake of the Israeli aggression of April 1996, has helped in reducing the intensity of the shelling directed against civilians in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa. However, the objective of this Group is necessarily of a temporary and limited nature and is in no way an alternative to the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which called upon Israel immediately to cease its military action against Lebanese territorial integrity and withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory.

The Lebanese civilian population living under Israeli occupation is undergoing daily hardships. In this context, I refer in particular to Israel's continued refusal to release hundreds of innocent Lebanese detainees held for

years in Israeli jails and the notorious detention camps in Al-Khiam and Marjayoun, in southern Lebanon, manned by the Israeli-controlled militia in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Many of the detainees are suffering from serious diseases as a result of harsh living conditions, subjection to ill-treatment and denial of medical care. Others have died in the camps or shortly after being released. The detainees have been subjected to physical and mental torture in further violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I take this opportunity to confirm Lebanon's commitment to the Middle East peace process in order to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and, as far as Lebanon is concerned, 425 (1978).

Lebanon's comprehensive national recovery remains hampered by Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon, its daily aggression against its territory and citizens and the persistent blunt calls by high Israeli officials to deliberately bombard and destroy basic infrastructural installations, including power-generating stations. Nevertheless, I am pleased to report that the national reconstruction and rehabilitation process is moving ahead.

The Government of Lebanon avails itself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the UNIFIL command, administrators, troops and troop-contributing countries for their noble efforts and sacrifices made in the cause of peace. It is moreover pleased to report that the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese authorities continue to coordinate their efforts towards the goal of deploying the Lebanese army throughout the southern part of the country to its internationally recognized boundaries. In this regard, the Government of Lebanon considers that the operational strength and capacity of UNIFIL should be maintained.

Furthermore, the Government of Lebanon wishes to express to you and your assistants its deep appreciation for your tireless efforts, which contribute to the valuable presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

I would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 20 (c) and 43
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION
OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF
ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS,
INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE:
EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR
PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF
WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 6 January 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to General Assembly resolution 52/211, adopted on 19 December 1997 under agenda items 20 (c) and 43, and to forward herewith a letter dated 6 January 1998 addressed to you by Dr. A. Abdullah, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (c) and 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 January 1998 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring the following to your immediate attention.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, strictly adherent to a policy of restraint and understanding, has always stood firm behind a non-military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, as required by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Accordingly, the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the United Islamic and National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (UINFSA) have recently taken a series of confidence-building measures. These have included, inter alia, the announcement of the readiness of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to enter into serious and sincere negotiations with the Taliban, the unilateral release of a significant number of the Taliban prisoners of war and the announcement of a unilateral observance of a ceasefire by the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan, all of which have contrarily been responded to with further intransigence and hostile actions by the Taliban militia.

Preceding the latest massive retreat towards the west, the Taliban mercenaries, upon re-entering the province of Fâryâb in northeastern Afghanistan on 1 and 2 January 1998, have continued indiscriminate massacres of the unarmed local inhabitants in the villages of Hazâr Qala, Châr-shanbe, Kôhi, Shôr and the administrative centre of Qaisâr district, totalling more than 600, resulting in a coerced exodus, in bone-chilling cold winter, of as many as 20,000 civilians, mostly women and children, now sheltered in the Almâr district of Fâryâb and the provincial capital of Maimana.

Eyewitness reports from the province further unveil brutal mass burials of civilian populations of the areas where the Taliban occupying mercenary forces have for weeks now been trying to crush a popular resistance movement.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, while vigorously condemning this barbaric act of genocide, earnestly expects you:

(a) To assign promptly a fact-finding mission to investigate and report on the matter to the United Nations;

(b) To call upon the Taliban to turn those responsible in to the United Nations;

(c) To appeal to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance to the victims and their families.

(Signed) Dr. A. ABDULLÂH
Vice-Minister for
Foreign Affairs

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7 January 1998
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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final communiqué adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its eighteenth session, held in Kuwait from 20 to 22 December 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Final communiqué adopted by the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its eighteenth session, held in Kuwait from 20 to 22 December 1997

At the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held its eighteenth session in Kuwait from 20 to 22 December 1997 under the chairmanship of His Highness the Amir. The meeting was attended by:

His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates;

His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman; and

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, Amir of Qatar.

His Excellency Sheikh Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, also participated in the meeting.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress made in cooperation and joint action in the political, security, military, economic, social and legal fields since its seventeenth session. It considered the reports and recommendations submitted by the GCC Ministerial Committees and the Ministerial Council, and it affirmed its sincere desire to promote the worthy goals enshrined in the GCC Statute and to make further progress on a wider and more comprehensive scale in order to keep pace with changes at the regional and international levels and meet the aspirations of the GCC member States and their peoples for security, stability and prosperity in the region.

Progress made in cooperation

Advisory Board of the Supreme Council

In its desire to strengthen the role of the citizen in promoting GCC activities, the Supreme Council decided to establish an Advisory Board consisting of citizens of member States having the necessary expertise and competence in order to provide advice on matters referred to it by the Council.

Military matters

In the military field, the Council approved the decisions taken by the ministers of defence at their sixteenth meeting, held in Doha, and in particular those relating to practical steps to establish a secure military communications

network among member States, to radar coverage and early warning systems and to military exercises.

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the progress made in military cooperation in all fields and stressed the importance of continuing to implement all aspects of military cooperation and of increasing the efficiency of the collective defence capability of member States with a view to promoting their unity of purpose and their common affiliation and destiny.

Security matters

With regard to security issues, the Council endorsed the decisions taken by the ministers of the interior at their sixteenth meeting, including those relating to the easing of formalities for the movement of citizens and the flow of goods and trade among member States. These included, most significantly, a decision to issue machine-readable passports to citizens of member States within a maximum of two years so as to dispense with the need for citizens to complete entry and exit cards in those countries in which they are still in use and the decision to improve services at overland crossing-points by increasing the productivity of personnel and the use of the most advanced equipment.

Economic matters

The Council reviewed the reports and conclusions of the meetings of the Ministerial Committees concerning progress made in economic cooperation between member States.

In the context of the formation of a customs union among the GCC States and the completion of the procedures necessary for the establishment of a unified customs tariff vis-à-vis the outside world, the Council took note of the agreements reached in the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the classification of goods. It gave instructions for procedures for the establishment of the customs union to be carried through, including the proposed unification of duties on scheduled goods, and approved the date of entry into force of the unified customs tariff for member States.

Stressing the importance of cooperation and linkage among member States in the field of banking and of the strengthening of that sector, the Council decided to permit national banks in member States to open branches in other member States subject to the relevant controls. It also decided to permit the Gulf International Bank to open branches in member States.

Emphasizing the linked economic interests of member States and the importance of the coordination of their infrastructure projects, the Council gave instructions for implementation to begin on phase I of the electricity linkage project and agreed that it should be owned and operated by an independent body run on commercial principles.

Further to the steps taken by member States to update their economic regulations as they relate to the encouragement of investment and in order to attract private-sector investment both at home and from abroad, the Supreme

Council authorized the Ministerial Council to adopt a model law for the encouragement of foreign investment in member States. It assessed the economic situation in member States and expressed satisfaction at the flourishing state of their economies. It commended the investments made by the private sector in all economic sectors and activities.

The Council further took note of the paper presented by Kuwait on the strategic aspects of the development and economic integration of GCC member States and of the positive concepts and basic elements set forth therein for a strategy for the medium- and long-term economic development of member States. It decided to refer the paper to the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation for consideration.

Legal affairs

The Council approved the GCC Unified Civil Code (known as the Kuwait document) and the GCC Unified Criminal Code (known as the Doha document), which are derived from Islamic law. Both are model codes that contribute to the unification of the legal systems of member States.

Man and the environment

The Supreme Council reviewed the recommendations of the Ministerial Council on cooperation in matters relating to man and the environment.

The Council appreciates the steps being taken to fill posts with nationals of member States and to facilitate the movement of national manpower among GCC States. It affirms the importance of pursuing population policies that will ensure the homogeneity, stability and security of the peoples of member States.

In the field of environmental protection, the Supreme Council approved three ordinances: on the conservation and promotion of nature; on the handling of radioactive substances; and on waste management and the procedures to be followed in the movement of hazardous waste between member States in accordance with the international regulations on such matters that represent a minimum in terms of requirements for protection.

Following the decision taken by the ministers of the interior at their sixteenth meeting, the Council decided to approve the mechanisms and procedures for facilitating movements and exchanges of members between agricultural centres in member States.

Political affairs

Implementation by Iraq of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait

The Council discussed progress made in the implementation by Iraq of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait. It stressed that the Iraqi Government must implement all of the relevant Security Council resolutions without selectivity, especially those relating to the elimination of the weapons of mass destruction still in Iraq's possession, the

release of Kuwaiti and third-country prisoners, the return of all Kuwaiti property and the requirement to refrain from hostile or provocative acts against neighbouring States in compliance with Security Council resolution 949 (1994).

The Council affirms that Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait were a violation of the inter-Arab and international covenants and of the international rule of law. It is therefore incumbent on Iraq to acknowledge that it violated the Pact of the League of Arab States and the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League, as well as the Charter of the United Nations, when it occupied the State of Kuwait. The Council calls upon Iraq to take the necessary steps to demonstrate its peaceful intentions towards Kuwait and the States of the region by word and deed so as to spare the region the calamities that would arise from any repetition of such a catastrophe and ensure the security and stability of all the States of the region.

The Council expressed deep concern at the dangerous escalation caused by the tense situation between Iraq and the United Nations resulting from the continued concealment by the Iraqi Government of dangerous and deadly biological and chemical weapons that threaten the lives of the fraternal Iraqi people and the other peoples of the region. In this connection, the Council commended the cohesion of the international position, as represented by that of the Security Council, with regard to the recent escalation. It reaffirmed its support for the Special Commission charged with eliminating Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and for its Executive Chairman in the context of the implementation of their mandate, and it renewed its call to the Iraqi Government to cooperate fully with the Special Commission without restrictions or conditions. The Council emphasized that Iraq must implement all of the relevant Security Council resolutions in order to bring about a mitigation of the sanctions and alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people. The GCC member States are sympathetic to that suffering, and they welcomed in that connection the oil-for-food formula under which food and medical requirements are provided to the fraternal Iraqi people. They have similarly welcomed every initiative for the mitigation of their suffering.

The Council has been following the recent developments in the situation in northern Iraq, and it has expressed concern at the possible repercussions of those developments for the region. It reaffirmed its constant position that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq must be preserved.

The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates, and relations with Iran

(a) The occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates

The Council considered developments in the situation with respect to the Greater Tub, the Lesser Tub and Abu Musa, islands that belong to the United Arab Emirates. It reaffirmed its great sadness at the Islamic Republic of Iran's continued refusal to respond to the earnest and sincere appeals made to it by the United Arab Emirates and by regional and international organizations for a peaceful settlement to the dispute.

The Council also reviewed the statements by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Mohamad Khatemi, in which he expressed his desire to meet with the President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and it heard His Highness welcome this approach. The Council welcomed any meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

Reaffirming the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over the three islands and its unconditional support for all the peaceful measures it is taking to re-establish its sovereignty over them, the Council again urges the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the islands, to desist from its policy of imposing faits accomplis, to refrain from building any further installations there with a view to changing the demographic composition of the islands, to rescind all unilateral measures taken in the past and remove all of the installations built, and to resolve the present dispute by peaceful means in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, including agreement to refer the issue to the International Court of Justice.

(b) Relations with Iran

The Council discussed developments in connection with relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in accordance with the established positions of its member States with regard to the promotion of good relations with it based on good-neighbourliness, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and in the light of the positive statements made by Iranian leaders concerning the intentions of the Government of Iran to endeavour to turn a new page in relations with GCC member States. It expressed the hope that the coming period would witness a positive and concrete evolution in relations between the two sides with a view to building mutual confidence and placing relations on a firm foundation so as to achieve security and stability in the region.

The peace process in the Middle East

The Council considered the peace process in the Middle East and its suspension as a result of the Israeli Government's failure to discharge the obligations imposed on it by the interim agreements concluded with the Palestinians and of the adoption of unilateral measures that pre-empt the final-status negotiations. These measures include the building and expansion of settlements, the expropriation of Palestinian land, the imposition of an economic embargo on Palestinian citizens and the curtailment of opportunities for economic development in the Palestinian territory, all of which are incompatible with the spirit of the peace process, the principles on which it was based and the provisions of the agreements concluded within its framework.

The Council expresses its unconditional rejection of such policies and practices on the part of the Israeli Government, and it urges it to discharge all of its obligations under the agreements concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organization and, primarily, to carry out the redeployment in the West Bank in all its stages and begin the final-status negotiations with the Palestinians. This will bring about a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and will enable the Palestinian people

to exercise all of its legitimate national rights, including the right to establish an independent State on its national soil with its capital at Jerusalem. The Council further urges the Israeli Government to resume negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks from the point reached in the previous rounds. It calls for Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the boundary line of 4 June 1967 in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), for its complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, and for all occupied Lebanese territory to be restored to Lebanese sovereignty in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

The Council appreciates the efforts made by the United States Administration in support of the peace process in the Middle East, as well as those of the Russian Federation, and it calls upon the co-sponsors to maintain and strengthen their role in promoting the resumption of the negotiations on all tracks and the restoration of the peace process to its normal and proper course.

The Council commends the international consensus in support of the maintenance of the peace process in the Middle East, of the need to fulfil existing commitments and of the resumption of negotiations on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace with a view to achieving a just and comprehensive peace. In this connection, the Council appreciates the efforts made by the European Union and its member States and the political and economic support they provide to the Palestinian National Authority.

Elimination of weapons of mass destruction

The Council expressed concern at the persistence of programmes for weapons of mass destruction in the region and called for action to transform the Middle East region, including the Gulf, into a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. The Council affirmed that Israel must accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and submit all of its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency inspection regime.

Extremism, violence and terrorism

The Council affirms once more that extremism, violence and terrorism are global phenomena that are not restricted to any particular people or region, and it reaffirms its condemnation of such phenomena and its categorical rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism from whatever source they may come. The Council expressed its regret that certain States had sheltered extremist terrorist elements on grounds of protecting human rights, and it calls upon those States to distinguish between such rights and the devastating terrorist actions and practices in which these elements engage and which threaten the security and integrity of States and place their citizens and residents in the greatest jeopardy. It further urges these States to endeavour to prevent such elements and extremist and terrorist groups from using their territory and exploiting their laws in order to obtain funding and weapons and from engaging in any other activities that threaten the security and integrity of States, and it calls for the conclusion of an international convention to combat terrorism.

The Council further rejects and condemns the interference of the European Parliament and other bodies in judicial matters and in the administration of justice in GCC member States, and it regards this as unacceptable interference in their internal affairs that may encourage the perpetration of crimes and terrorist actions and thus have an adverse impact on security and stability in the region.

In concluding its work, the Council welcomed the decision of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference, held in Tehran from 9 to 11 December 1997, that Qatar should host the Ninth Summit, to be held in Doha in the year 2000.

The Council expressed its deep appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, and to the Government and people of Kuwait for their warm welcome, generous hospitality and sincere fraternal sentiments, commending the arrangements made to host the meeting.

The leaders of the GCC member States also commended the major role played by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and Chairman of the Supreme Council's current session, in the conduct of the meetings held. This had the greatest impact in ensuring that important decisions and conclusions were reached in the endeavour to fulfil the aspirations of the peoples of the GCC States.

The Supreme Council looks forward to meeting, God willing, at its nineteenth session, to be held in the United Arab Emirates in December 1998 at the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.

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LETTER DATED 6 JANUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 29 September and 25 November 1997, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-00360 (E) 090198 090198

/...

Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire resolution and the 1991 Tehran agreement between 29 September and 25 November 1997

1. 29 September 1997

At 1415 hours a white Iranian passenger boat was observed travelling at high speed in Shatt al-Arab along a course from (a) between latitude 29°50'00" N and longitude 48°47'60" E to (b) between latitude 49°43'00" N and longitude 48°41'60" E.

2. 5 October 1997

At 0900 hours the Iranian side arrested two Iraqi herdsmen who were tending their flocks inside Iraqi territory. They were taken to the Iranian guard post opposite Ayn Ghazalah at coordinates 734193 (1:100,000 map of Mandali).

3. 5 October 1997

At 1730 hours the Iranian side placed a caravan on a foundation which had been cleared on 24 September 1997 at coordinates 677150 (1:100,000 map of Al-Bakr). Military personnel use it as an observation and surveillance post for the Iranian side opposite the Iraqi custom post at Ra's al-Bishah.

4. 6 October 1997

At 1430 hours 15 soldiers and two officers from the Iranian side reinforced Iranian positions around the Miyan Tarak guard post at coordinates 5840 and increased the number of weapons held at the post.

5. 6 October 1997

The Iranian side intensified foot and vehicle patrols behind the Iranian barriers at night and increased the number of river patrols in Shatt al-Arab by an average of five patrols each day in the restricted zone between the port of Abadan at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) and the southern point of Mo'aviyeh Island at coordinates 510435. Each boat carried four persons in civilian dress. The boats and foot and vehicle patrols withdraw after first light each day.

6. 6 October 1997

After sundown on this date the Iranian side occupied the defensive positions located on the Iranian barriers parallel to Shatt al-Arab in the Abadan area at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) and the southern point of Mo'aviyeh Island at coordinates 510435 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). Two persons wearing military uniform and carrying GC-type arms occupied each position for 45 minutes before withdrawing to Iranian territory. The defensive positions were occupied by groups, each group occupying three defensive positions 150 metres apart and between 1.5 and 2 kilometres from the next group.

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7. 7 October 1997

At 0800 hours an Iranian engineering unit began to remove arched steel shelters behind the Iranian barriers parallel to the latitude line and opposite the Iraqi Wasiliyah area at coordinates 426543 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). The shelters are old and had been discarded in the area. The Iranian side may wish to remove them in order to transfer them to another location.

8. 8 October 1997

At 0930 hours the Iranian side began to sow mines at coordinates 9185 (1:100,000 map of Bubiyan), 400 metres from our sector and along a 150-metre front.

9. 8 October 1997

At 1050 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was observed at a height of 200 metres in the area opposite Wadi Qarah Tappah at coordinates 760150. At 1105 hours it disappeared in the area behind the Iranian post at coordinates 820130, 3 kilometres away, then made for the Iranian interior. While over the control post, it was seen to winch up an Iranian soldier.

10. 8 October 1997

At 1230 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen reconnoitring behind the hills opposite the Shahabi guard post at coordinates 357436 inside Iranian territory, travelling from south to north. It then returned to the Iranian interior.

11. 8 October 1997

At 1315 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was observed at a height of 2,000 metres in the area opposite Wadi Qarah Tappah at coordinates 760150. At 1340 hours it disappeared in the area opposite Wadi Jalat behind the Iranian post at coordinates 820130, before making for the Iranian interior.

12. 8 October 1997

At 1410 hours an Iranian helicopter landed inside Iranian territory forward of the Abu Gharb area 2 kilometres from the border. Five persons disembarked, and at 1425 hours the helicopter returned to the Iranian interior.

13. 9 October 1997

At 0810 hours two helicopters were seen coming from the Iranian interior. They landed at coordinates 4460 (1:100,000 map of Naft-e Shah), and 17 persons wearing black clothing disembarked.

14. 9 October 1997

At 0940 hours nine vehicles, of which four were military jeeps and two Land Rover military pick-up trucks, were seen approaching from the Iranian interior. They stopped near the helicopters mentioned in paragraph 13 above, and

12 persons from the regular army got out. At 0950 hours the persons wearing black clothing returned in the helicopters to the Iranian interior, followed by the vehicles and military personnel.

15. 9 October 1997

At 1000 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian military helicopter was seen approaching from Iranian Naft-e Shah. It flew over the town of Sumar in the direction of Kani Shaykh.

16. 12 October 1997

At 1800 hours an Iranian fibreglass patrol boat, carrying five persons armed with GC rifles, was seen opposite our sector at coordinates 412543 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).

17. 12 October 1997

At 1900 hours the two Iranian guard posts located at coordinates 419548 and 416550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) opened sporadic fire on our sector with light arms. This lasted for 15 minutes.

18. 13 October 1997

At 0510 and 2015 hours the two Iranian guard posts referred to in paragraph 17 above repeated their actions, for five minutes on the first occasion and 15 minutes on the second.

19. 13 October 1997

At 0130 hours a group of approximately 10 Iranians armed with medium machine guns, RPG/7 rocket launchers and rifles infiltrated our sector at coordinates 8611, then withdrew to the Iranian interior.

20. 14 October 1997

At 0900 hours a camouflaged combat helicopter was seen to land at the Iranian guard post at coordinates 8906 opposite Wadi Abu Gharb. At 0955 it returned to the Iranian interior.

21. 18 October 1997

At 1320 hours an Iranian helicopter was seen hovering at a height of 80 metres over coordinates 448567 (1:100,000 map of Fakkah), 200 metres from the border. At 1330 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

22. 24 October 1997

At 1220 hours a camouflaged combat helicopter was seen at 2,000 metres over the Iranian guard post at coordinates 8409, 900 metres from the border. At 1230 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

23. 28 October 1997

At 0730 hours a group of approximately six Iranians wearing civilian clothing and military uniforms and armed with Kalashnikovs was seen near our sector in Wadi Shusharin at coordinates 9397 before returning to the Iranian interior.

24. 29 October 1997

At 1135 hours a khaki-coloured Iranian helicopter was seen approaching our sector at a height of 700 metres. It remained in its position at a distance of 900 metres for one minute before returning to the Iranian interior.

25. 30 October 1997

At 0130 hours two persons carrying a rifle and a rocket launcher approached from the Aqabah border post at coordinates 4881. There was an exchange of fire between the two sides until the persons ran away.

26. 30 October 1997

At 0530 hours three shells fell one kilometre from the Aqabah border post, and another four shells fell near the Askiyar border post at coordinates 5081.

27. 30 October 1997

At 1400 hours an Iranian mechanical digger was seen reinforcing the positions at the Chasmeh Kalli junction at the Miyyat post at coordinates 5840 in the Haran region. At 1700 hours it withdrew to the Iranian interior.

28. 30 October 1997

At 1700 hours 10 transport vehicles preceded by a smaller vehicle arrived at the Iranian Khan Layl post carrying 100 persons to reinforce the post.

29. 30 October 1997

At 2100 hours the lights of five vehicles were seen moving along the Iranian border opposite the Tahrir guard post at coordinates 5291.

30. 31 October 1997

At 1115 hours a vehicle carrying 15 persons armed with light weapons was seen. These persons alighted in the area opposite the Askiyan guard post at coordinates 5081, then spread out and began digging an estimated seven trenches.

31. 31 October 1997

At 1400 hours approximately 55 to 60 Iranian soldiers armed with GC light arms, medium weapons of the BKC type and rocket launchers were seen heading from the Iranian position of Fuj towards the Iranian Naft-e Shah guard post at coordinates 5564. They then returned to the Iranian interior.

32. 31 October 1997

At 2200 hours fire came from the Iranian observation post in front of the Ghafiqay post at coordinates 4699 at a rate of three to four bursts of medium firepower, then stopped.

33. 1 November 1997

At 1130 hours an Iranian jeep in Abadan at coordinates 402570 opened fire on Iraqi civilian boats in the area.

34. 3 November 1997

At 0730 hours a 106-mm gun was set up near the Iranian Mian Tak guard post opposite our sector at coordinates 5740 (1:100,000 map of Mandali).

35. 3 November 1997

At 1630 hours two grey fibreglass Iranian patrol boats with Yamaha 200-hp motors, the Ashur/1 and Ashur/2, were observed. The first boat had seven people on board and the second four, of whom two were soldiers. They used a video camera to film the Iraqi coastline from the area of the Unbubi bridge at coordinates 663148 (1:100,000 map of Al-Bakr) to the Iraqi customs posts near the sea.

36. 5 November 1997

At 1630 hours Iranian 82-mm mortars and machine-gun fire fell on our sector at coordinates 5542.

37. 6 November 1997

At 0930 hours a number of persons from the Iranian regular army were seen reinforcing the shelters at the observation post at coordinates 4503.

38. 6 November 1997

At 1200 hours a bulldozer was seen removing one of the old Aranco-type shelters at coordinates 4503. At 1215 hours it returned to the Iranian interior.

39. 8 November 1997

At 1430 hours a military helicopter was seen coming from the Iranian interior heading towards Jabal Aq Wadagh at coordinates 4915, 2 kilometres from the international border. Five minutes later it returned to the Iranian interior.

40. 13 November 1997

The Iranian side carried out surveillance of our border posts of Muhammad Qasim, Ta'an and al-Hassan al-Askari and of the Kilal river from two

helicopters, which then landed at Mehran airport. On the same day a group of persons wearing black clothing was observed surveying the area on foot, before withdrawing to the Iranian interior.

41. 16 November 1997

At 1620 hours two Iranian patrol boats with wireless apparatus, the first of which was grey with three persons on board, and the second blue with four persons on board, approached to within 500 metres of the port of Al-Bakr. They deployed in the area for three minutes before withdrawing towards the Iranian side.

42. 17 November 1997

At 1100 hours four Iranian patrol boats were seen, two of which had 48-hp engines and the other two Yamaha 200-hp motors. Each boat had 10 persons on board, some of whom were civilians and some military personnel armed with rifles. The boats left the port of Abadan at coordinates 400568 and headed towards the city of Khorramshahr at coordinates 290678 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). At 1200 hours all the boats returned to the port of Abadan, having taken the civilians and the soldiers to the port of Khorramshahr.

43. 17 November 1997

Two Iranian Land Cruiser vehicles arrived at the Iranian guard post opposite the Ziyadi guard post. Sixteen armed persons carrying wireless apparatus got out and began to carry out surveillance of the sector. When they reached the guard post, some of them began training activities. At the same time, three explosions were heard in the area. After a short while, a Mercedes truck arrived at the same place, and persons got out who removed the barbed wire that was in front of the post. Everyone then returned to the Iranian interior.

44. 18 November 1997

At 1340 hours an Iranian helicopter was observed at an altitude of 2,000 metres in the area opposite the Qarah Tappah sector at coordinates 1715. At 1400 hours it withdrew from the area towards the Iranian interior.

45. 18 November 1997

At 1600 hours a helicopter was observed at an altitude of 500 metres, 1 kilometre from the border at coordinates 5870. At 1605 hours it withdrew towards the Iranian interior.

46. 19 November 1997

At 0930 hours the Iranian side set up a 100-mm mortar at coordinates 4503 to the south of Khosrow.

47. 19 November 1997

At 0945 hours an estimated 15 persons from the Iranian interior approached our sector at coordinates 8804. Fire was exchanged, and at 1045 the force withdrew to the Iranian interior.

48. 19 November 1997

At various times our units observed the Iranian side clearing away and burning the reeds growing on the Iranian barriers in front of the post at Maynu Island and in the region of Khosrowabad.

49. 20 November 1997

The Iranian side carried out the same work, in the same area, as was reported in paragraph 48 above.

50. 20 November 1997

At 1400 hours four Iranian boats were seen leaving the port of Khorramshahr. They bore the colours white, grey, red and yellow. Three of the boats had Yamaha 200-hp motors and the fourth a 48-hp motor. Two boats had four civilians and the other two had three civilians on board. These boats were observed proceeding the whole length of the Faw region, after which they went out to sea.

51. 20 November 1997

At 1600 hours an Iranian launch left the port of Khorramshahr heading towards Abadan, towing two grey and white Iranian patrol boats. The launch had five civilians on board, and each patrol boat had two civilians on board.

52. 21 November 1997

At 1235 hours an Iranian military helicopter was seen approaching. It hovered over the Khosravi compound at coordinates 4404 then headed for Jabal Agh Dagh.

53. 22 November 1997

The Iranian side opened a new base in the Abadan region at coordinates 415550 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) containing four boats, of which three have Yamaha 200-hp motors and the fourth a Johnson 110-hp motor. These boats undertake patrols from the port of Abadan to the Khosrowabad region, each with four or five civilians on board.

54. 22 November 1997

An Iranian post of two tents was established near the Saddam post at coordinates 472543 inside Iranian territory. It is manned by six or seven persons.

55. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side burned the reeds on the Iranian shore of Shatt al-Arab in the region opposite the Iraqi areas of Fadaghiyah, Duwayb and Wasiliyyah.

56. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side increased the number of Iranians carrying out observation and surveillance on the coast between Baynuj Island at coordinates 304628 and the Khosrowabad area at coordinates 5139, so that there are now 10 rather than six persons at each post. They also re-excavated and placed barbed wire around old positions in the area.

57. 24 November 1997

The Iranian side increased to five the number of its daily river patrols in Shatt al-Arab towards the restricted area between Khorramshahr and Abadan. Some of the boats have Yamaha 200-hp motors and the rest 48-hp motors.

58. 24 November 1997

At 1300 hours, six armed persons, some wearing military uniform and the rest wearing civilian clothing (black trousers), attempted to arrest Iraqi conscript Jawad Yusuf Abd-al-Zuhra while he was fetching water near the Hanjayrah junction at coordinates 862051 inside our national borders. However, the armed men were unable to capture him, as he was able to escape to the watercourses and return to his post at 1900 hours on the same day.

59. 24 November 1997

At 1700 hours the Iranian side erected a steel observation tower 9 metres high on the Iranian barriers at coordinates 5844 south of Majdun South.

60. 25 November 1997

For seven minutes an unarmed khaki-coloured helicopter was seen at an altitude of 1,000 metres carrying out surveillance over the area from coordinates 7614 to coordinates 7920, 5 kilometres from the international boundary.

61. 25 November 1997

At 1345 hours a khaki-coloured helicopter was seen approaching from the Iranian borders at an altitude of 1,000 metres and at a distance of 2.5 kilometres in the Shayb region. It carried out surveillance before returning towards the Iranian borders.